

Appl. No. : 10/676,495
Filed : September 30, 2003

REMARKS

In response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed March 31, 2005, Applicant has amended Claims 3, 8, 12, and 17 and canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, Claims 1-2, 6-7, and 22-26. Thus, Claims 3-5 and 8-21 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 6-7, and 22-26. Applicant may not agree with the bases for one or more of these rejections and is not acquiescing to the rejections. Applicant reserves the right to pursue any of the prior versions of the claims, and other new claims, in one or more continuing applications.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 3-5 and 8-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 5, 10, and 13 have been amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 11 has not been amended since it depends from Claim 10, which has been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 5, 10, 11, and 13 are in condition for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 6-7, and 22-26. Applicant has canceled Claims 1-2, 6-7, and 22-26 without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1-2, 6-7, and 22-26 are canceled to only expedite issuance of a patent with the allowed claims. Applicant maintains that the cancellation of a claim makes no admission as to its patentability and reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claim in this or any other patent application.

CONCLUSION

All pending claims have been indicated as allowable. Accordingly, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. If further issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the


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undersigned. Also, please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMEND

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